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Hongkong, April 11, 1912.



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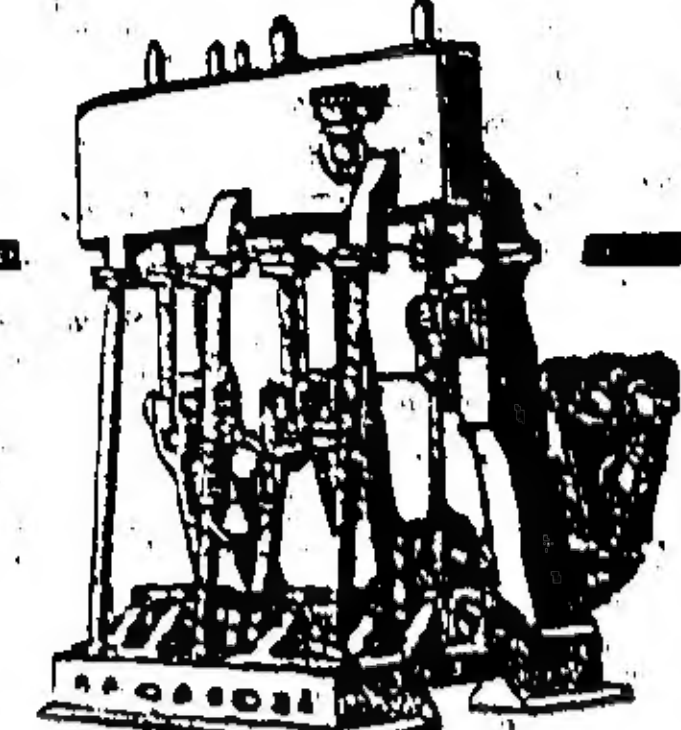
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Hongkong, April 11, 1912.

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THE WAR.

LATEST TELEGRAMS.

(Reuter's Service to the China Mail.)

COMBATting SUBMARINISM.

"VERY CONSIDERABLE SUCCESS"
ACHIEVED.

ADMIRAL JELlicoe NOT DIS-
SATISFIED WITH RESULTS.

LONDON, Feb. 13.

In the House of Lords, Lord Lytton
(representing the Admiralty) stated
that although the new phase of
submarinism was not a fortnight old,
the counter-measures provided had
already achieved very considerable
success.

Lord Curzon reiterated that Sir John
Jellicoe was not dissatisfied with the
past fortnight's operations in this
connection.

Admiral Lord Bessford declared him-
self confident that we should have sub-
marinism really in hand in six weeks or so.
Lord Bessford stated that we had lost
over 4,000,000 tons of shipping in the
war, but 3,000,000 tons had been more
or less adequately replaced. There was
not the slightest cause for panic. "We
had done remarkably well and would
do much better. Though we had a bad
time to face, submarinism was nearer
being well in hand than ever, owing to
men fresh from sea experience of
submarinism bringing new ideas to the
Admiralty."

Lord Lytton, for the Admiralty, said
every device of human ingenuity was
being employed most energetically
against the enemy submarines and the
Admiralty was confident that we could
continue not merely to furnish our allies
with munitions and supplies and carry
out our obligations towards our allies,
but also to keep free certain routes for
neutral commerce and obtain the neces-
sary supplies for our own people.

Lord Curzon said the gross tonnage
before the war of vessels exceeding
1,600 tons was 16,850,000. By January
31st the reduction was between 5 and 6
per cent. of this. Admiral Jellicoe was
not dissatisfied with the number of Ger-
man submarines in the past fortnight
which would never return to their own
shores. New devices were being in-
vented and applied.

WHITE STAR LINER TORPEDOED.

LONDON, Feb. 13.

The White Star liner *Africa* (12,000
tons) has been torpedoed. Seven-
teen of the crew are missing. Five
were killed.

[The *Africa* was a twin-screw
steamer built in 1899. Her length was
350ft. and speed 18 knots.]

IMPORTANT BILL INTRODUCED IN U.S. SENATE.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13.

The Acting President of the Senate
has introduced a Bill which, if
enacted, will open the ports of the
United States to Allied warships
conveying merchantmen against
submarines and enable such war-
ships to patrol (American) waters
against German raiders.

The introducer of the Bill is
unwilling to say if he has the sup-
port of the Government but it is
understood that the Bill might be
acceptable to the Government.

THE GERMAN CREWS IN THE UNITED STATES.

A GERMAN THREAT.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13.

The Swiss Minister, acting for
Germany, has informed the State
Department that Germany will hold
the Americans from the *Yarrowdale*
(taken from ships sunk in the Atlan-
tic) as prisoners until they are
assured that German crews in the
United States will not be made
prisoners.

AMERICA AND GERMANY.

THE GERMAN OFFER TO
NEGOTIATE.

LONDON, Feb. 13.

The mystery of Germany's offer to
negotiate with the United States to
prevent war, mentioned in cables dated
the 10th and 12th inst. is heightened
by a German semi-official telegram
characterising the report as "a complete
invention."

The matter, however, is cleared up
by a Washington message giving a
State Department announcement which
shows that Berlin is again lying.

The announcement says: "The Swiss
Minister on Saturday afternoon orally
suggested that Germany is willing to
negotiate, provided that the commercial
blockade of England was not interfered
with. Mr. Lansing requested that the
suggestion should be made in writing.
The Swiss Minister on Sunday night
accordingly presented a communication
which states, 'The Swiss Government
has been requested by the German
Government to say that the latter now,
as before, is willing to negotiate formally
or informally with the United States
provided that the commercial blockade
of England is not broken thereby.'"

Mr. Lansing replied on Monday in
the following terms: "I am requested
by the President to say that the Govern-
ment of the United States will gladly
discuss with the German Government
any questions it might propose for dis-
cussion if it withdraws its proclamation
of January 31st in which suddenly,
and without previous intimation of any
kind, it cancelled its assurances of May
4th last, but it does not feel that it can
enter into any discussion with the
German Government concerning the
policy of submarine warfare against
neutrals which it is now pursuing
unless and until the German Govern-
ment renounces its assurances of May 4th
last and acts upon that assurance."

REVELATIONS BY AMERICAN PRESS CORRESPONDENTS.

FREED FROM THE TRAMMELS
OF CENSORSHIP.

LONDON, Feb. 13.

A combination of trickery, arro-
gance and panic characterising
Germany's attitude to the United
States is revealed in the despatches
of American Press correspondents
freed from the trammels of the
German censorship on their arrival
in Denmark and Switzerland from
Berlin.

It appears that extraordinary pre-
cautions were taken to conceal the
decision as to unrestricted submarin-
ing, which was taken at the grand
Austro-German Conference at the
German Headquarters on the Kon-
ser's birthday. Even Herr Zimmer-
mann (Foreign Secretary) gave no
hint of it when he saw Mr. Gerard
on the eve of the Chancellor's an-
nouncement on January 31st. The
surprise was effectual, but to none
more than the Germans who were
absolutely dismayed by the prompt-
ness of President Wilson's rupture
of relations. Then followed an
amazing attempt to browbeat Mr.
Gerard into signing a revised version
of the Prusso-American Treaty of
1795 with a view to securing the
inviolability of German property in
the United States in the event of
war.

(Continued on Page 5.)

Lieut. O. Douglas, of the Royal Fly-
ing Corps, stated at a meeting of the
Scottish Meteorological Society that the
field of view from an aeroplane was so
extensive that distant thunderstorms
were easily discernible. He himself had
seen clouds a hundred miles off from a
height of 4,000 feet.

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THE Undersigned have received instructions to sell by Public Auction, (FOR ACCOUNT OF THE CONTESTED),

THURSDAY,

the 16th February, 1917, commencing at 10.30 a.m., at their Sales Rooms, No. 8, Des Vaux Road, Corner of Ice House Street.

MISCELLANEOUS STOCK,

Comprising—
Gent's Woollen Singlets and Pants, Shirts, Ties, Socks, &c., about 100 pairs; Ladies' Boots and Shoes, Bath Robes and Gowns, Counterpanes, Blankets, Bath and Face Towels, Toilet Soap, &c., about 20 Doz.; Trunkers, Hot or Cold Flasks, &c., Dressing Cases.

And

About 30 Doz. Lady's Silk Hosiery.

Terms—Cash.

HUGHES & HOUGH,

Auctioneers.

Hongkong, Feb. 7, 1917. 1473

PRELIMINARY NOTICE.

PUBLIC AUCTION.

THE Undersigned have received instructions from The Executors of the Estate of the late Mr. L. E. NEEDHAM, to sell by Public Auction, (FOR ACCOUNT OF THE CONTESTED),

SATURDAY,

the 17th February, 1917, at 2.30 p.m., at No. 6, Mountain View, the Peak, the whole of THE

VALUABLE HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE.

contained therein.

Further particulars will be published later.

Terms—Cash.

HUGHES & HOUGH,

Auctioneers.

Hongkong, Feb. 10, 1917. 1483

PUBLIC AUCTION.

THE Undersigned have received instructions from The Executors of the Estate of the late Mr. L. E. NEEDHAM, to sell by Public Auction, (FOR ACCOUNT OF THE CONTESTED),

SATURDAY,

the 17th February, 1917, at 2.30 p.m., at No. 6, Mountain View, the Peak, the whole of THE

VALUABLE HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE.

contained therein.

Comprising—

Hall Stands, Teakwood Upholstered Suite, Arm-chairs and Sofa, Indian Rugs and Carpets, Blackwood Tables, Blackwood Arm-chairs and Settees, Handsomely carved Blackwood Screens, Shelves, &c., small collection of Carved-wood Figures, Vases, Brasses, &c., Pictures and Engravings, large Sideboard, Extension Dining Tables, and Chairs, Electric-painted Ware and Cutlery, large Dinner Service (complete), Glass Ware, Spirit Tantalus, &c.,

Teakwood Wardrobes, Chest of Drawers, Dressing Tables, Washstands, Single Iron Bedsteads, Sundry Bed and Table Linen, Pantry, Kitchen and Bath Room Utensils, &c., &c.

On view Friday, 16th inst. from 2 p.m. Catalogue will be issued.

Terms—Cash.

HUGHES & HOUGH,

Auctioneers.

Hongkong, Feb. 13, 1917. 1493

FOR SALE.

at their Sales Rooms, No. 8, Des Vaux Road, Corner of Ice House Street.

SECOND HAND CONTRACTIONS PLANT.

THEODOLITE AND LEVEL.

Full particulars may be had from the undersigned.

Terms—As usual.

HUGHES & HOUGH,

Auctioneers.

Hongkong, Feb. 7, 1917. 1474

AUCTIONS.

PUBLIC AUCTION.

THE Undersigned have received instructions to sell by Public Auction, (FOR ACCOUNT OF THE CONTESTED),

SATURDAY,

the 17th February, 1917, at 10.30 a.m., at their Sales Rooms, No. 8, Des Vaux Road, Corner of Ice House Street.

A Consignment of HOUSEHOLD LINEN, &c.

Consisting of—
Sheets, Table Cloths, Serviettes, Towels and Bath Sheets, Dusters, Bedspreads, Lady's and Gent's Handkerchiefs, Pillow Cases, Underskirts, Ladies' Underwear.

Also

A number of Lady's Sweater Coats (new)

And

A number of lots of Lace Curtains.

Terms—Cash.

HUGHES & HOUGH,

Auctioneers.

Hongkong, Feb. 8, 1917. 1473



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1097

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Further particulars will be published later.

Terms—Cash.

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Hongkong, Feb. 7, 1917. 1474

MR. YAPP OF THE Y.M.C.A.

WHAT THE RED TRIANGLE STANDS FOR.

[BY HAROLD BROTHERS.]

Outside the door I asked myself, What sort of man shall I meet?

Perhaps you will be so kind as to disturb your mind for a moment with a like perturbation. What sort of a man do you imagine this Mr. A. K. Yapp to be—the man who has hung here all over the world, who has called into the coffers of the Y.M.C.A. a million of pounds, and is still calling more, who has organised one of the most efficient and one of the very largest undertakings connected with the war, and who has enlisted the services of 20,000 workers at the very least in the ramifications of this tremendous undertaking?

You may be tempted to say, "Obviously, here is a man of push and go, perhaps, indeed, the man for whom we are in search—make him Food Director, War Secretary, Prime Minister; send him post haste to deal with King Constantine; give him the British Empire; to do what he likes with it, subject only to the approval of Mr. W. M. Hughes."

My dear madam, my dear sir, you have reason. Here is a man into whose hands you might commit almost anything that wanted doing well. At the same time, you must prepare yourself for something of a shock, something of a disappointment. To begin with, Mr. Yapp is a gentleman. Secondly, he is a good man. And thirdly, he is modest, gentle, and calm. Perhaps, after all, it would be wiser to leave him where he is.

He is a man turned 47 years of age, but looking younger because he has plenty of hair on his head, gone on his face, and a smile in his bright, deep-set eyes which will last longer than his smooth hair. He is tall and big, a solid, imperious man, fully six feet, I should judge, and holds himself upright yet without stiffness or self-assertion. He wears a pair of gold-rimmed eyeglasses with a double string which hangs down on one side of his face. The most noticeable characteristic in his appearance is the shortness of his stubborn forehead and the somewhat disproportionate heaviness of the lower part of his face. The expression of this interesting face is a compromise between a judge and a bishop—a gentle judge and a whimsical bishop.

Mr. Yapp's manner is quiet and restrained. He appears to have run out of Push and not yet got in a fresh supply of Go. His voice is leisurely, pleasant and full of kindness. He has the placidity of strength, and the charm of goodness. A more natural, wholly unaffected, real and likeable person it would be hard to find among master-organisers. The physical vigour of the man seems to be an expression of his moral power.

NEVER TO MIND.

This may surprise you, too. For something more than an hour, after I had got inside the door, I sat listening to Mr. Yapp's tale of the huts, listening; that is to say, to the master-organiser's account of his organisation; but the impression made upon my mind had nothing to do with mechanism, nothing to do with energy and efficiency. Instead I was filled with a strange wonder and a new reverence. I forgot dug-outs and trenches, base-camps and hospitals, forgot the whole tortured face of battle-torn earth, forgot even this present day, and was carried far back in human history to a little hill outside a little eastern town where, by a few beautiful words, a young peasant stamped his character upon the whole course of human evolution.

Outside, in the fog of London, the newspapers were hanging up their placards about the German peace-trap, and about German peace-bluff. Here, in this room, one was thinking of the wonderful person who spoke about loving enemies and who also said—"Blessed are the peacemakers."

For, whether you like it or not, the whole of this extraordinary work done by the Y.M.C.A. has its sole rise, origin, inspiration, energy, and cooperation in the character of Jesus.

"People make a mistake," said Mr. Yapp, and you will kindly imagine this big and gentle man smiling as he speaks, speaking, too, in a deep, leisurely, unaffected and unburied way; "people make a mistake in thinking that our work is new-born and is purely a humanitarian reaction from the brutalities of war. To begin with, we had started our hut-work before the war came. We had tents for the Territorials during their summer training, and had already organised a fairly extensive camp work, which we intended to develop. And not only this. People are sometimes inclined to think that our Association has taken a new

lease of life from the war, is, in fact, almost a new corporation. But, I assure you, we owe everything to the original spirit of our society. You can see this very easily in the fact that the policy has been shaped by men trained in the Y.M.C.A. tradition, who came to the Y.M.C.A. long ago, and who were attracted to the Y.M.C.A. by the spirit which first called it into existence. It is true that we have become more popular, and it is true that we have grown and broadened in the last two years; but the soul of all our work is still the soul of the original Association—service to mankind as an expression of our devotion to God."

He said to me, too—"I was immensely impressed during my last visit to France by one quite small experience, which shows I think, the mystical power of religion. I went into a room in one of our huts where men as a rule play cards and smoke. But in this room no one was smoking, and no one was playing games. I was rather puzzled, and looked about me for an explanation. I saw it at last at the end of the room. Someone had put up a Cross on the wall. I spoke to our officer-in-charge. He told me that the soldiers, without any suggestion from outside, feel that they would be wanting in reverence to religion if they made a room with that symbol of religion in it into a play-room."

For a few minutes he spoke with quiet and affectionate enthusiasm of our soldiers. "It is a sober Army," he said. "I am an Army which respects religion. It is also a well-mannered Army. You never by any chance hear bad language in our huts. Soldiers who have got the habit of brutal words and vile words drop that habit at the door of our huts. We see them then only as men who suffer and who are patient. I know no patience like that of the British soldier at the front."

He also told me of the great crowds who come voluntarily to the religious services held in the huts. "During my last day in Rouen," he said, "I was struck by the enormous crowd at the service. I attended. I made inquiries, and learned that fifteen services were being held by our people in that same city, and that all were equally crowded. And on that same day twenty-five services were held in Y.M.C.A. huts in Havre, with full congregations. How goodness works out its own evolution—in some of the towns of France a rescue work has sprang out of our huts, and looks as if it will make root in French soil."

THE HUT HABIT.

"It is extraordinarily interesting," he continued, "to study the chain of this work. Begin, for example, with the huts set up in England at the various camps and in the big towns. You see there how we work to give the soldier a refuge of comfort and friendliness during the time of his training, and through a period of great temptation. Then cross the Channel. Directly you arrive you find our huts at the base camps—large and splendid huts. Travel along the lines of communication, and you find our huts all the way—getting a little smaller, or becoming tents, as you approach the war zone. Then you leave these smaller huts behind, and within sound of the guns, find the Y.M.C.A. installed in ruined houses. Go further still, and enter the trenches. You find us there, hard at work in a dug-out. There is a regular line of workers from the great hut to the smaller hut, from the smaller hut to the ruined house, and from the ruined house to the dug-out. It is a moving thing to see our workers in those dug-outs, ministering to the mud-stained soldiers as they trudge back from the front trenches. We have boilers at work, and serve each soldier with a cup of cocoa. So our services extend from England to the very dug-outs on the field of battle. And we receive every day letters of gratitude, from mothers and fathers who would find it hard to support the agony of their anxiety about their sons except for our huts. One often thinks of the material solidarity at the back of all our work. There is a fearful amount of human suffering behind the battle-line. And the love of the parent—straining after the son and following him through every temptation, cleaving to him in his discomforts, seeking him in the trench—how tragic and how beautiful it is. I wish you could see the letters which reach us, hundreds of them."

He is a man of enthusiasm, for all his quiet, for all his absence of impassioned speech. "I believe that we are teaching men, what I may call the hut habit; and when peace comes I believe that this habit will tell enormously in the moral life of the nation. For, you see, the soldier is learning to understand what the red triangle stands for. He no longer associates religion with that is called good-godliness, with checks and restraints, with a negative attitude towards life. He sees that the red triangle stands for an all-round policy, and that we aim to develop men physically, morally, intellectually and spiritually. It is such a mistake to think that our work with the soldier ends in providing food, games and entertainments. We are teachers and educationalists. You should see the crowds which come to our lectures in France. The other day there were 60 generals at a lecture on the Balkans. We are carrying on an educational work among the Indian troops. They are learning English, and learning to read and write their own language. We do this work with a promise to the Government not to proselytise. In one of the huts I visited the other day, speeches of gratitude were made by a Brahmin, a Sikh, and a Mohammedan. Two of the soldiers wrote their names for me in English, and I was crowned with

losses of life from the war, is, in fact, almost a new corporation. But, I assure you, we owe everything to the original spirit of our society. You can see this very easily in the fact that the policy has been shaped by men trained in the Y.M.C.A. tradition, who came to the Y.M.C.A. long ago, and who were attracted to the Y.M.C.A. by the spirit which first called it into existence. It is true that we have become more popular, and it is true that we have grown and broadened in the last two years; but the soul of all our work is still the soul of the original Association—service to mankind as an expression of our devotion to God."

He said to me, too—"I was immensely impressed during my last visit to France by one quite small experience, which shows I think, the mystical power of religion. I went into a room in one of our huts where men as a rule play cards and smoke. But in this room no one was smoking, and no one was playing games. I was rather puzzled, and looked about me for an explanation. I saw it at last at the end of the room. Someone had put up a Cross on the wall. I spoke to our officer-in-charge. He told me that the soldiers, without any suggestion from outside, feel that they would be wanting in reverence to religion if they made a room with that symbol of religion in it into a play-room."

For a few minutes he spoke with quiet and affectionate enthusiasm of our soldiers. "It is a sober Army," he said. "I am an Army which respects religion. It is also a well-mannered Army. You never by any chance hear bad language in our huts. Soldiers who have got the habit of brutal words and vile words drop that habit at the door of our huts. We see them then only as men who suffer and who are patient. I know no patience like that of the British soldier at the front."

He also told me of the great crowds who come voluntarily to the religious services held in the huts. "During my last day in Rouen," he said, "I was struck by the enormous crowd at the service. I attended. I made inquiries, and learned that fifteen services were being held by our people in that same city, and that all were equally crowded. And on that same day twenty-five services were held in Y.M.C.A. huts in Havre, with full congregations. How goodness works out its own evolution—in some of the towns of France a rescue work has sprang out of our huts, and looks as if it will make root in French soil."

THE HUT HABIT.

"It is extraordinarily interesting," he continued, "to study the chain of this work. Begin, for example, with the huts set up in England at the various camps and in the big towns. You see there how we work to give the soldier a refuge of comfort and friendliness during the time of his training, and through a period of great temptation. Then cross the Channel. Directly you arrive you find our huts at the base camps—large and splendid huts. Travel along the lines of communication, and you find our huts all the way—getting a little smaller, or becoming tents, as you approach the war zone. Then you leave these smaller huts behind, and within sound of the guns, find the Y.M.C.A. installed in ruined houses. Go further still, and enter the trenches. You find us there, hard at work in a dug-out. There is a regular line of workers from the great hut to the smaller hut, from the smaller hut to the ruined house, and from the ruined house to the dug-out. It is a moving thing to see our workers in those dug-outs, ministering to the mud-stained soldiers as they trudge back from the front trenches. We have boilers at work, and serve each soldier with a cup of cocoa. So our services extend from England to the very dug-outs on the field of battle. And we receive every day letters of gratitude, from mothers and fathers who would find it hard to support the agony of their anxiety about their sons except for our huts. One often thinks of the material solidarity at the back of all our work. There is a fearful amount of human suffering behind the battle-line. And the love of the parent—straining after the son and following him through every temptation, cleaving to him in his discomforts, seeking him in the trench—how tragic and how beautiful it is. I wish you could see the letters which reach us, hundreds of them."

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TELEGRAMS.

(Continued from Page 1.)

RELIEF WORK IN BELGIUM.

AMERICANS WITHDRAWING FROM IT.

GERMAN CONDITIONS MAKE CONTINUANCE IMPOSSIBLE.

New York, Feb. 13. It is officially announced that the Americans are withdrawing from the relief work in Belgium and North France, as the German conditions for the continuance of the work make it impossible.

The President of the Relief Commission states that six weeks' food supplies are stored in Belgium, which Belgian officials will be authorized to distribute, pending a re-organization of relief work.

GERMANY'S REMINDERS TO NEUTRALS.

New York, Feb. 13. A message to the Associated Press from a correspondent who has left Berlin states that five German Army Corps were concentrated on the Dutch frontier, when ruthless submarine warfare began; while other neutrals whom President Wilson invited to join America, were all indirectly reminded of the fate of Belgium and Serbia.

ATTACKING IN SNOWSHIRTS.

A MILITARY DEMAND FOR LADIES' NIGHTSHIRTS.

London, Feb. 13. A correspondent at Headquarters describing the snow-shirt attacks mentioned in a German communiqué (published yesterday), says the Canadians started the milliner's shop of a certain village by demanding hundreds of ladies' nightshirts of the largest size. There were shouts of laughter in the Canadian trenches when the nightshirts were doled out and tied up with blue ribbon.

A party went out at midnight in the snow, with rifles and bombs, cleared the dug-outs and brought back prisoners. Similarly the Gordon Highlanders sallied out in white smocks and with helmets painted white, and destroyed German outposts, blew up a nest of dug-outs and captured prisoners.

ENGLISH ARMOURD CARS ON RUSSIAN FRONT.

London, Feb. 13. A Russian official report, received by wireless, states that English armoured cars twice advanced in the region of the mouth of the Sereb and bombarded enemy positions.

GREAT BRITAIN'S PRISONERS OF WAR.

London, Feb. 13. In the House of Commons, Mr. J. F. Hope, Parliamentary Secretary to the Lords of the Treasury, indicated that the interned enemies would be employed on agriculture and other work of national importance. (Cheers.) Compulsion would not be applied to the civilian prisoners.

EXPLOSION AT A YORKSHIRE MUNITIONS FACTORY.

London, Feb. 13. The Press Bureau announces that an explosion, preceded by a fire, occurred at a munitions factory in Yorkshire this morning. It is believed that all the employees escaped. Some damage was done in the neighbourhood, and possibly there were some casualties but this is not yet known.

AUSTRIAN AIRMEN BOMB A HOSPITAL TRAIN.

Rome, Feb. 13. Italian seaplanes bombed the Arsenal and ships in the harbour of Pola and returned safely. An enemy air-squadron bombed a hospital train at Brindisi. Six Red Cross officials and two civilians were wounded.

MESOPOTAMIA.

ENEMY COMPLETELY HEMMED IN AT THE DAHRA BEND.

London, Feb. 13. An official report from Mesopotamia states:—

We directly hit the enemy bridge at Shumran and sank some shipping. We resumed our advance on Sunday on the right bank of the Tigris and drove back the enemy to their last line of trenches in the Dahra bend, westward of Kut, and established our line in the evening across the bend from bank to bank on a frontage of 5,500 yards completely hemming in the enemy.

GERMAN REPORTS FROM VARIOUS WAR ZONES.

London, Feb. 13. A German official message says:—

Numerous enemy reconnoitring advances between Ypres and Arras failed. We repulsed two Russian attacks on the Upper Sereth. We stormed a fortified position southward of the Vale-Putna Road. We stormed an Italian hill in a position in the Cerna salient.

TERRIBLE EXPLOSION NEAR HAMBURG.

Copenhagen, Feb. 13. The *Hamburger Nachrichten* announces a terrible explosion near Hamburg. Two large ammunition factories were destroyed, 63 people being killed and 63 injured.

THE PRICE OF SILVER.

London, Feb. 13. Silver is 89 1/2 pence. There is competitive buying and the market is firm.

EARLIER TELEGRAMS.

GERMANY AND THE UNITED STATES.

[AN OFFER TO NEGOTIATE]

Washington, Feb. 13. It has been confirmed that Germany offered, on the 11th instant, to negotiate with the United States regarding submarine activities "provided the commercial blockade against England was not interfered with."

Mr. Lansing replied that the United States would gladly discuss the subject, provided Germany withdrew her proclamation of the 31st January; but cannot discuss the submarine of neutrals until Germany renews her assurances given after the torpedoing of the Sussex.

BRITISH PRISONERS IN TURKEY.

CONDITIONS GENERALLY DEPLORABLE.

London, Feb. 13. In the House of Commons Mr. Hope stated that the Government had made the strongest possible representations to Turkey with the view of obtaining permission for representatives of the United States to visit the British prisoners of war. Their efforts had hitherto been unsuccessful, but would be continued.

AMERICAN SOLICITUDE FOR BRITISH PRISONERS OF WAR.

London, Feb. 13. Mr. Balfour has sent a letter to Mr. Page, the American Ambassador, warmly thanking America for her solicitude for British subjects in Germany, especially war prisoners.

EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS.

GERMANY'S INSULTING SUGGESTION.

London, Feb. 14. The Press Bureau issues a Foreign Office statement which says that in pursuance of the arrangement for the exchange of British and German incapacitated prisoners of war by means of a British hospital ship to and from Holland, preparations were made to carry out the exchange on the 7th inst. Germany telegraphed through the American Embassy, prior to America's severance of diplomatic relations, that the departure of a hospital ship with severely wounded Germans was no longer considered safe, and suggested the transportation of wounded to and from England by Dutch paddle steamers, which would be guaranteed a German safe-conduct. The transport of severely wounded English prisoners would be suspended until Britain's reply was received. Future repatriations, including those of German and English civil prisoners, would thereafter be effected in the same manner.

GERMAN SOUTH-WEST AFRICA.

TURBULENT NATIVES ROUTED.

Cape Town, Feb. 13. "It is officially announced that a small Union expedition routed the followers of the turbulent native chief, Mandume, at Ovamboland, German South-West Africa, on the 6th inst., killing 40, including Mandume. Nine of the Union force were killed and eleven injured. No further trouble is anticipated."

WHY GERMANY WANTS PEACE.

The New York "Tribune" on December 28 republished the following article, published recently in the *Derliner Lokal-Anzeiger*:—"We began the war a year too soon. When we began we had a German peace we must begin immediately our reorganization on a broader basis. We must carefully calculate in advance what the country lacks in raw material and secure immense reserves to remain unused until some day in the future. We must also establish a definite commercial understanding with countries outside Europe to prevent munition supplies going to our enemies. Finally when the next war comes it must not be a year too soon."

GERMANY'S LAST HOPE.

THE NEW SUBMARINE.

Amsterdam, Dec. 26. German shipyards are working day and night constructing an enormous fleet of submarines. The only limit to the number is the great difficulty of securing adequately trained crews. The chief training centre is Kiel harbour, where 30 of the newest and largest submarines are daily used solely for the purpose of training crews. A feature of the new vessels is the extraordinary shape. The bows resemble the blade of a sythe, pointing upwards from the water. A newly invented process makes the blade extremely hard and sharp in order that a submarine travelling at moderate speed may be able to cut through a wire bower 14 inches thick. The larger submarines are equipped for a voyage of 70 days.

In launching a submarine, at the Germania wharf recently, the vessel glided down the slips with increasing speed. "When it was impossible to check the submarine the horrified spectators saw a big iron implement flying across the slips. The vessel struck the obstacle, bounded up and fell upside down into the water, the crew being drowned."

All Germany is raring with the coming exploits of the submarine fleet which has renewed the cheerfulness of great bodies of the people.

RUSSIA'S CLAIM TO THE STRAITS.

WHOLE-HEARTED BRITISH ASSENT.

Petrograd, Jan. 1. The annual New Year's dinner of the New English Club took place today. Sir George Buchanan, the British Ambassador, presided, and the guests included Mr. Rodzianko, who is president of the Russo-English Society, Mr. Sazonov, who is president of the Russo-British Chamber of Commerce, and General Sir John Hanbury Williams. Sir George Buchanan, in the speech of the evening, referred to Germany's peace move and said there was but one answer which the Allies could give to such a proposal.

We have read in the Old Testament (he said) how when Joram, King of Israel, went out to meet Jehu, the latter replied, "What peace so long as the whoredoms of thy mother Jezabel and her witchcrafts are so many?" Our reply, though couched in the diplomatic language of the twentieth century, is virtually the same. Effect between us and Germany is a great gulf fixed, red with the blood of peaceful non-combatants. We cannot grasp her hand again until the armies of Germany have been defeated and the spirit of militarism, permeating the whole nation is exterminated.

During the past two years Great Britain has not only wished to secure for herself the lion's share of the spoils, but of thwarting the realization of Russia's traditional ambitions. Mr. Trepo's recent statement in the Duma respecting Constantinople and the Straits, agreed with the policy of the British Government, when first approached on the subject, early in the spring of 1914, at once expressed its whole-hearted assent. We want to see Russia largely compensated for all her services and sacrifices, we want to help her to win the prize she so long desired, we want to see her strong and prosperous, and we want to consolidate for all time the alliance which this war has cemented, for on its maintenance depends the future peace of the world. That is the corner-stone of our policy, and now that we are firm friends let us both take to heart the advice given by Polonius to his son, "The friends that thou hast and their adoption tried, grapple them to thy soul with hoops of steel."

In the course of his speech Sir George Buchanan remarked that during the war Great Britain had advanced over 250,000,000 to her Allies for the purchase of war material, which otherwise would have been unobtainable, besides what she had supplied direct.

A story of the late Lord Kitchener, well known at the time, and for the accuracy of which the present writer can vouch, is not without its deeper lesson to-day. At an early stage in the negotiations leading up to the Peace of Vereeniging (May, 1902) a distinguished officer and personal friend of the General, "Britain," had advanced the following private telegram as follows:—"May we sing at Church parade next Sunday hymn 'O. 637'?" (Peace, perfect peace.) The reply came stern and prompt: "No, sing hymn No. 629." (Christian, seek not yet repose.)

CHINA AND THE WAR.

CHINA'S CHANCE.

When the United States severed its diplomatic relations with Germany, "Putnam Weekly" contributed to the "Feking Gazette" the following article under the heading "The voice of America and its meaning to China":—"The masculine action of the American Government in the face of a challenge such as has not been offered to the United States since the days of the Napoleonic wars—when an attempt was made to coerce American shipping into service obedience to alien decrees—should be the last argument necessary to convince China that the European struggle is a fight to a finish and that everyone who is not on the side of the victors will be counted as on the side of the vanquished. The voice of America is a powerful voice because the United States is the dominant power on a vast and immeasurably strong continent—a continent containing resources beyond the dreams of avarice which are sufficient in themselves to feed even a world-war to the crack of doom. By ranging herself definitely on the side of those who are determined to uphold the Law of Europe in such a way that a repetition of the history of the past three years will be an impossibility, America has once more been true to herself as she has indeed always been true throughout her fourteen decades of history. American action, conditioned as it is by a powerful sentiment of altruism, will be held by future historians to be one of the supreme things of the period 1914-1917, a decisive thing in the region of politics, a big thing in the sea-war, and a beacon to guide lesser nations to a haven of peace. It is impossible any longer to disguise the fact that although the belligerency of a Power 3,000 miles removed from the fiery crucible of war may not in a military sense be decisive, the moral effects will be so immeasurably great as to send the fate of those who have been guilty of violence down the gullies on which western civilization rots."

The question before China can now be stated very lucidly. It is simply this: Is this country to remain without a Foreign Policy when everything demands that it should have one or are the Chinese today big enough as a nation to realize that if action is taken without undue delay not only will their future work of government be immeasurably simplified but a new relationship established with the outer world? We have already reported at our own arguments so constantly in the columns of this newspaper that it would be a work of supererogation to return to them to-day. The thing and one thing only, we have to add: that no possible harm can come to this country if it follows the American precedent, provided that careful soundings are taken in Europe to secure that proper guarantees are forthcoming. We submit that the moment has come to borrow the wise expedient used in China under the Empires in times of crisis—namely, the Council before the Throne. China urgently needs a definite Foreign Policy, properly formulated and wisely carried out. Without such a Foreign Policy, even a good and workable Constitution will prove valueless. She needs to assemble at the earliest possible moment a grand conference of her notables to decide what guarantees she must ask of the Powers who declare her preservation, since once she has those guarantees she will be secured against surprises. As matters stand to-day China's future position is not happy. She has steadily believed that the war was to be drawn away and that 1918 or 1919 would bring things back to the Far East, to move where they were in 1914. She has consistently deluded herself with vague promises—she has refused to think in the hard, concrete terms which reality demands. Basing her attitude on a negative thing, namely her present moderate fear of Japan, she has not comprehended the nature of policy which a neutral Power with all a neutral's rights and privileges, when the very first attributes of neutrality—the power, willingness and fortitude to protect your own territory and resist any encroachment on that territory, were publicly surrendered in Shanghai in August 1914.

If a masculine act has been taken in Washington, honour demands that another be taken in Peking. Time is fast passing away and what is practical to-day will be unfeasible to-morrow. China must take the initiative with Japan, acknowledge that what has saved her in the past from exploitation and subjugation will just as infallibly save her in the future. It was England who intervened in the Summer of 1913 when Japanese warships, armed with modern guns, sailed into Hankow and were manœuvred to work vengeance on the country for the slaughter of Japanese civilians by Chang, Hun's soldiers. It was again England in the Spring of 1915 who killed Group Y, of the Twenty-one Demands, which, had it been carried out, would have forced in their entirety upon the country, or the sword driven through her. England did not act from high altruism in these matters; England acted because policy demanded it, and her press supported her. The realities of the vital times to-day, as yesterday. These things should be guides. For China to go on living in her own dream-world, imagining that her own innocent arguments and contrivances will, when peace comes, avail her any thing in the great European arena who men go down to die in millions is madness. She must make terms, discuss, discover, now, and when she sees where she stands, she must act. It is the broad wisdom of the market-place she must apply—abandoning and forgetting the little maxims of a audience which belong to a world that has already disappeared.

THE SHANGHAI OPIUM STOCKS.

Peking, Feb. 13. The contract signed by the Vice President for the purchase of the Shanghai opium stocks has been confirmed by the President.

Germany is instituting an old clothes monopoly. The utilization of cast-off clothing is entrusted to communities which will have a monopoly of the purchase of these articles. The exchange of old for new articles will be carried out on the ticket system. During 1917-18, two pairs of shoes a year will be allowed each person in return for used but still wearable pairs.

NEWS FROM HOME.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

LONDON, January 1. THE OUTLOOK.

The year opens with a prevalent conviction here and in the ranks of our Allies that a victory for our forces this year is certain. This optimism is the more marked and noteworthy considering that the turn of the year has brought us many reminders of the sternness of the struggle and the sacrifices that have yet to be made. To-day we commence eating war bread—otherwise Standard bread—by compulsion, and white bread is barred. We can only have two courses to our lunch and three for our dinner. Our railway fares went up this morning fifty per cent., and every time we pass the barrier those of us who are reasonable ticket holders will have to show our tickets, so that there will be no "going through the nod." Last but not least hundreds of thousands of men have this week to don khaki, and a corresponding number of homes are to feel the pinch of war in added measure.

With all this accumulation of doubtless New Year Gifts, it is remarkable therefore that the national spirit is as cheerful as of old. The secret of it lies in the unshakable optimism of the British people. From Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig to the most recent Tommy at the trenches there are no "doubting Thomases." They are all and all assert that the end of 1917 will see the armies ready for disbanding, even if that event does not take place before.

Nor does this prophecy indicate any weakening of the determination. The sentiments of the Hon. W. F. Massey and Sir Joseph Ward, from New Zealand that the end must be attained before our arms are laid down, are echoed everywhere. "It is, in fact, well that these representatives of overseas opinion should be here at this moment to stimulate and strengthen home ideas of 'seeing it through.' Their speeches to New Zealand troops and to the general public here, as well as their interviews in the Press, have all proved, to the people here—and, to the enemy—that the decision not to have a tinkered peace at the bidding of Germany has behind it not merely the approval but the deliberate determination of the men of the Dominions.

Only in well-informed quarters, perhaps, is the full significance of the calling of the Empire War Council in Whitehall realised. For while they will come from over the seven seas to deliberate on war, when the time of the Allies comes they will also deliberate on Peace, and it is good that these strong men who have made the Dominions should be here to voice the opinion of the myriads who have rushed to the aid of Europe in this crisis. It is a guarantee that the Peace to be accepted will be a lasting Peace, and that there will be no creaky spirit in its framing nor undue haste in its completion.

There is also the after-time to be considered. Imperial relations, like many other things, can never be the same again. The summoning of an Imperial Conference, to be held in the near future to discuss questions concerned with the war and other vital matters, says Sir Joseph Ward, is undoubtedly an event of historic importance, which is bound to be fraught with important consequences to the future of the Empire. He comments on the limitations of exchanges by cable and adds "How much better to have these opinions exchanged in personal discussion and consultation, and how much more effective settlement of the questions under consideration. Further it is obvious that some of the more important issues to be dealt with at this conference can only be satisfactorily disposed of in a discussion where full information on these points is for the first time in the possession of the overseas representatives. The great advantage, indeed, of the prospective Imperial Conference is that it promises decisions endorsed by the Empire as a whole after careful and thorough ventilation."

If the Germans are preparing, as it is said, for after-war trade and other developments, the need is obvious for an Imperial and Allied agreement as to the policy of the permanent official's troubles are Ten o'clock till four, and week ends sufficient.

HARPER'S BALSAMIC COUGH LINCTUS.

The mild and soothing influence which this preparation has classes it among the most valuable of its kind, in cases of Cough, Asthma, Bronchitis, Shortness of Breathing, or Difficulty of Expectoration; and while it removes the accumulation of phlegm, from its Tonic and Astringent virtues it prevents its formation, and allays irritation of the membranes of the throat and chest, rendering these delicate parts less susceptible of future irritation and disease.

DOSE—From ten drops to one tea-spoonful according to age and circumstances, to be taken three or four times a day, or when the Cough is troublesome.

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applied to the Hun dumpers when they attempt to unload their cargoes on foreign shores.

Whatever may be said of the Premiership of Mr. Lloyd George, it must be admitted that he is making more drastic changes than any one man has done in this country since Oliver Cromwell. He has paid a big price for the assistance of the Labour men—in itself an augury for change in the future—but he has also drawn

into the Government some of the most experienced and resolute business men in the country, such as Lord Devonport and Lord Rhondda. Red tape is being chopped in, fragments in Whitehall to-day, and hitherto drowsy permanent officials are bestirring themselves in a fashion that must make them revile the new order of things. For example, some Jack in Office who other day issued an official notice that owing to the quantity of white flour in the country the baking of white bread would be allowed for a longer period than to-day. Within a few hours there was a "follow" message to the public, signed by Lord Devonport as Food Controller, to the effect that the previous announcement was issued without his approval and it therefore carried no weight. Somebody in Whitehall had been badly rapped over the knuckles for that—which is all to the good for the Empire, seeing that these barmecides in office who so long withstood the aid of business men have cost the Empire enormous sums in waste and incompetence. But the new Premier is going still further. He has proved the value of trained specialists, in the various departments, and so from day to day more men of that stamp are being summoned to breakfast at Downing Street, where the Premier obtains from them views on this and that problem, with which to check the opinions of the permanent official. All this makes the outlook for the permanent official's troubles are Ten o'clock till four, and week ends sufficient.

HONGKONG POLICE RESERVE.

COMMENDATION.

Sergeant-Major Roylance and P.C. 66 Lai Man Wai have been commended by the Police Magistrate and by the Capt. Supt. of Police for their zeal and activity in effecting the arrest of a scoundrel in Queen's Road Central on the 1st inst.

POLICE SCHOOL, NEW CLASS.

The O.C. No. 2 Platoon will detail 32 Constables to form Class IV, which will be taken by Chief Inspector Kerr. Dates of the sittings of Class IV, will be issued.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Members of Nos. 3 and 4 Companies who have to fire Part II of the 1917 Course, and have no previous experience with Service Rifles will attend at Central Station for instruction as follows:—

Friday, Feb. 16th.—No. 3 Platoon (No. 3 Company).

Thursday, Feb. 22nd.—No. 4 Platoon (No. 4 Company).

Friday, Feb. 23rd.—No. 6 Platoon (No. 3 Company).

Report in uniform, but without Rifle, to Musketry Sergeant Fisher outside the Armoury at 5.15 p.m.

STRENGTH.

P.C. 682 Bowen Rowlands is permitted to resign on leaving the Colony.

Joined.—No. 2 Platoon, S. M. Sidiak (Sgt.) F. O. Jerny, D.S.I. (B.).

MAN-POWER IN THE P.M.S.

COMPULSION NOT IMPOSSIBLE.

A Kuala Lumpur telegram to the *Strait Times* says:—"The F.M.S. Government reply to the man-power resolution says they are unable to understand how the present scheme causes uncertainty, and trusts that all employers will encourage employees of military age to go before the Advisory Committee, but it is feared that employers are putting pressure on employees not to do so, or that men of military age are objecting for other reasons to be examined and take advice. The Government will be ready to consider whether the wishes of joint meeting representatives cannot be met and an enactment providing for compulsion passed. The Government, however, is strongly of opinion that the patriotic motives of employers and employees is such that a voluntary scheme will be found sufficient."

